

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 DRC-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CU-04 MC-02 /138 W

----- 111127

R 151537Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6916

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

CNO WASHDC//OP-009C//

COMH VIIYQM LEX VA

DIA WASHDC

DOD WASHDC//ISA//

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US/ XO

SUBJ: MORE PRESS CRITICISM ON DIEGO GARCIA

REF: MOSCOW 3406

1. FIRST SOVIET PRESS REACTION TO DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS
AND ADM. MOORER TESTIMONY ON DIEGO GARCIA IS MARCH 15
PRAVDA ARTICLE BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KURDYUMOV.
ITEM REPORTS TESTIMONY SHOWED THAT USE OF BASE FOR
B-52'S "NOT EXCLUDED" AND SAYS MOORER EXPRESSED
PERSONAL VIEW IN REPLY TO SYMINGTON QUESTION THAT
THIS SHOULD HAPPEN. KURDYUMOV ACKNOWLEDGES SUBSEQUENT
DOD CLARIFICATION THAT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO BASE
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B-52'S ON DIEGO GARCIA, BUT ASKS RHETORICALLY WHAT

IS TO PREVENT RECONSIDERATION OF PLANS. ENTIRE STATE DEPARTMENT EFFORT TO PLAY DOWN TENSIONS IN REGION WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM BASE IS TERMED "SMOKE SCREEN TO MASK FAR-REACHING PLANS OF PENTAGON."

2. LENGTHY COMMENTARY IN MARCH 14 IZVESTIA BY VLADIMIR KUDRYAVTSEV RAKES OLD COLAS ON DIEGO GARCIA, CITING ZURHELLEN HFAC TESTIMONY BUT OBVIOUSLY WRITTEN BEFORE CLEMENTS/MOORER APPEARANCE AT SENATE HEARINGS. KUDRYAVTSEV DISPUTES U.S. RATIONALE BASED ON FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION, WHICH HE SAYS OTHER STATES INCLUDING USSR ENJOY, OR ON ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES, WHICH DON'T REQUIRE NAVY, OR ON DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES, WHICH HE SAYS DON'T EXIST UNLESS ONE COUNTS COMMITMENTS OT SOUTH AFRICA AND PORTUGUESE COLONIALISTS. KUDRYAVTSEV ALLUDES TO U.S. FLEET MOVEMENTS DURING BANGLADESH CRISIS AND RECENT ME CONFLICT AND WARNS THAT U.S. IS LAYING BASIS FOR RESORT TO GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY AGAIN IF NEED BE. HE CONCLUDES THAT U.S. MEASURES IN INDIAN OCEAN RUN COUNTER TO GENERAL TENDENCY TOWARD DETENTE.

3. COMMENT: VOLUME OF COMMENTARY ON DIEGO GARCIA IN SOVIET PRESS INDICATES GREAT STAYING POWER OF ISSUE, PERHAPS GREATEST FOR ISSUE OF THIS TYPE SINCE DECISION ON HOMEPORING IN GREECE. STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, CONSTRUCTION, PRESS COMMENTS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, DIEGO GARCIA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW03718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740340/aaaabljq.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 3406
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE PRESS CRITICISM ON DIEGO GARCIA
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XO, PRAVDA, (MOORER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005